



CHECK THIS OUT HOLDING WORTHLESS CHECK WRITERS ACCOUNTABLE

The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) and City Attorney’s Office, in conjunction with Financial Crimes Services, recently implemented a worthless check diversion program.

The program aims to reimburse victims, increase the accountability for people who issue worthless checks, and educate merchants and residents in ways they can reduce the incidence of worthless checks. The BPD also hopes the program will reduce the investigation and prosecution costs associated with worthless check cases.

According to Sergeant Mark Elliott, there is no cost to taxpayers or merchants for the program; it is funded solely by fees collected from the people who issue the worthless checks.

“The BPD has been conducting informational meetings and e-mailing notices to Bloomington businesses through its Business Watch Program,” Elliott said.

Financial Crimes Services works with 124 city and county jurisdictions and 12,000 businesses. In 2010, the agency recovered \$1.4 million in worthless checks and returned it to merchants.

For more information, contact Sergeant Elliott at 952-563-8628.

“We hope that through proactive education and accountability, we can greatly reduce the number of worthless checks in Bloomington.”

Sergeant Mark Elliott



HELP CURB DISTRACTED DRIVING MAKING BLOOMINGTON A SAFER PLACE TO DRIVE

The City of Bloomington’s Fatal Crash Review Committee (BFCRC) is asking residents to steer clear of distractions while on the road.

BFCRC’s message includes a few simple pieces of advice: Always use your seatbelt, follow

PROTECTING ONE ANOTHER

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY FROM THE DESK OF OFFICER HEIDI MILLER

According to the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation, the majority of children injured or killed in pupil transportation are not injured or killed on the bus, but outside of the bus by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm.



With the start of another school year right around the corner, now is a good time to think about school bus safety. These tips apply not only to motorists, but to the students who are waiting, boarding and unloading from the bus.

Students:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk 10 giant steps away.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives the signal that it is safe.
- Protect yourself by being alert and aware of the traffic around you.

Motorists:

- Always stop for a school bus when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended – even on a two- or three-lane road.
- If you intend to turn onto a street where a school bus is stopped and the red lights are flashing, stay stopped in your original lane until the lights are turned off.
- Failing to stop for a school bus is chargeable as a gross misdemeanor punishable by a \$3,000 fine and/or a one-year jail sentence.

This article is in memory of Minnesota students who lost their lives in bus accidents. For more information, contact Officer Heidi Miller at 952-563-4975 or hmiller@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



SECURE YOUR HOME PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

During a typical year, home electrical problems account for 28,600 fires and \$1.1 billion in property losses. Electrical fires claim the lives of 310 Americans each year and injure 1,100 more. Some of these fires are caused by

electrical system failures, but many more are caused by incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits and extension cords. Follow these simple safety precautions to prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical fires:

- Routinely check your electrical appliances.
- Replace all worn, frayed or damaged wiring or cords immediately.
- Only use power taps or strips that are polarized or grounded.
- Don’t allow children to play with or around electrical appliances.
- Use safety closures to “child-proof” electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords according to instructions and for temporary situations only.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION.



GROW YOUR FAMILY ADOPT FROM THE BLOOMINGTON ANIMAL SHELTER

Nearly 4 million animals are euthanized each year due to pet overpopulation, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

Adopting a pet from a local shelter is a great, inexpensive way to add a quality companion to your life and stop them from being unnecessarily put down. Animals that are adopted from a shelter are also more likely to be spayed, neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations.

At the Bloomington Animal Shelter, located at 9920 Logan Avenue, employees carefully assess animals’ temperament and health in order to make sure they are fit for adoption. On any given day, the shelter will have cats and dogs available and occasionally puppies and kittens for an adoption fee of \$30 (plus sales tax).

You may receive notification when a new animal has arrived at the shelter. Visit the City’s website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and sign-up to receive an e-mail alert each time a new pet is available for adoption.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ADOPT A PET.



CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Bloomington Environmental Health is conducting a food safety survey to assess public awareness of food safety and food-borne illnesses.

The survey results will be used by Environmental Health to provide better and more useful public information on food safety.

To participate in the online survey, visit the City’s website and type in the keywords below. The survey will also be available in paper form at the Bloomington Farmers Market and participating grocery stores.

Participants may also have the chance to receive a free gift for completing the survey.

For more information, contact Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FOOD SAFETY.